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LUCE

LUCE, CLARE BOOTHE (OH-220) 108 pages PRCQ (M)

U.S. Ambassador to Italy, 1953-57

DESCRIPTION: Early acquaintance with Dwight Eisenhower; House Military Affairs Committee's visit to European Theater of Operations in 1944; DDE's appearance before House Military Affairs Committee; question of Eisenhower running for President; luncheon with Eisenhower at Columbia University; Paul Hoffman and his role in "Eisenhower for President;" Harry Luce's support of Robert Taft; role of religion in Eisenhower's life; the 1952 Presidential campaign; election night at the Commodore Hotel; Eisenhower's job offer to Luce as Secretary of Labor; Luce's appointment as Ambassador to Italy; 1953 Italian elections; de Gasperi; Luce's speech in Milan; Yugoslavia-Italy situation; Trieste negotiations; Robert Low; Tito; Robert Murphy; access to the President; offshore procurement; Fourteen Points of American policy; admission of Italy in the United Nations; Italian narcotics in the U.S.: P.L. 480; Luce's confirmation as U.S. ambassador and hearings before Foreign Relations Committee; diplomatic relations with the Vatican; John F. Dulles' meeting with the Pope; Italian attitude toward woman ambassador; Luce's resignation; job offer as ambassador to Brazil; economic problems in Brazil; confirmation hearings before Foreign Relations Committee (William Fulbright, Wayne Morse, and John Kennedy); conversation with Lyndon Johnson; resignation as ambassador to Brazil; conversation with John Kennedy; Eisenhower-Dulles relationship; NATO in Europe; Eisenhower's concept of the Presidency; Eisenhower and politics; opinion of the two-party system; major achievements of the Eisenhower Administration; Suez Crisis; President Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis; Harry Luce and the "Texas delegate steal" story; Harry Luce's opinion of Eisenhower and Dulles; morale of the foreign service personnel; Eisenhower's opinion of draft dodgers; Emmet Hughes as Eisenhower speechwriter; Luce's opinion of Franklin Roosevelt and work on his speech; Eisenhower's relations with the press; George Romney; Eisenhower's support of Nixon in 1960; Mrs. Luce's impressions of Mamie; influence of President's family on politics.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, January 11, 1968]